

AVOIDING WETLAND VIOLATIONS IN A WOODED WETLAND



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Disturbance Activities May Lead To Food Security Act Wetland Violations = Loss of USDA Program Benefits

Maintain wetlands in natural conditions to remain eligible for USDA benefits. Avoid activities shown in yellow without consulting with NRCS. To avoid wetland conversions and violations do not carry out any land disturbing activities without contacting NRCS. Leave the area as a natural wetland allowing natural processes occur. If you have questions, please contact your local USDA Service Center.

NOT CONVERTED (NOT A VIOLATION)

Wetland Uses

Use wetlands for:

- Recreation
- Hunting
- Timber harvesting

- Maintaining drainage in place before 12/23/85 if it is still functioning

Maintain the area in:

- Natural vegetation
- Woody vegetation (trees and shrubs)
- Allow natural plant regeneration

A Person shall be ineligible for USDA benefits if "the person converts a wetland by draining, dredging, filling, leveling, removing woody vegetation or other means for the purpose, or to have the effect, of making production of an agricultural commodity possible. 7CFR12 (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 7, Part 12)

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PATH OF WETLAND CONVERSION (MAY LEAD TO WETLAND VIOLATIONS)

Land Disturbing Activities that may progress to wetland violations



*Any activity can develop into a conversion if the production of an agricultural commodity becomes possible.

END OF PATH = WETLAND VIOLATION (CW+YEAR LABEL)

Violations are called CW+Year

and result in the partial or total loss of USDA benefits covering all land (not just the area of the violation).

Violation of Swampbuster Provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985

occurs when a wetland is converted by:

Removal of woody vegetation and/or hydrology manipulation:

- for the purpose of or
- to have the effect of making production possible

= **LOSS OF USDA BENEFITS**

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